

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Meeting on May 5th

IN THIS ISSUE:

Note from the Editor

What does YOUR club do?

FCC dismisses five more petitions

Your Club Could be Awarded \$1000

Wayne Mills, N7NG, to Join ARRL HQ Staff

And Much Much More

Officers

President	John Lynn KL0CY
Vice President	Susan Woods NL7NN
Secretary	Lil Marvin NL7DL
Treasurer	Paul Spatzek WL7BF
Trustee	John Wolfe AA0NN
Activities Chairman	Edythe Lynn KL0EO
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL0EO
Membership Chairman	Fred Erickson KL7VC
Past President	Peter Bailey WL7BW

Three Year Board Members

Bruce McCormick WL7YR
John Orella KL7LL
Harvey Rookus NL7DK
David Stevens KL7EB

One Year Board Members

Corney Eastman KL0FK
John Murray NL7WW
Steve Gehring KL7DC
Fred Erickson KL7VC
Mike Borer WL7CKB

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

<http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

president to kl0cy@arrl.net

webmaster to kl7aa@lawson.akconnect.com

membership to frederickson@iname.com

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting

Email: KL0CY@arrl.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 kHz, 7075 kHz &
145.35 MHz: Sending Speed: 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:

Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily

Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily

Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz
8:00 AM M-F

QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local

850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM

Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local

Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local

ARES net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local

PARKA net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft

146.34/94 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL

223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft

147.30/90 MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL

KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.

146.16/76 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club

temporary down 146.97/.37 MHz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.

147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL

444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club

146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS

146.67.07, 1072. Hz PL

KL7G West Anchorage & Events

449.65/444.65 MHz, patch, no PL

Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency

147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat

146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat

146.41 Mhz Mat Valley simplex chat

~~~~~ **HOT LINKS** ~~~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

SCRC <http://www.home.gci.net/~worcester/scrc.htm>

EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

MARA <http://www.obarr.net/mara/>

Moose Horn ARC <http://www.alaksa.net/~kl7fg>

ARES <http://www.qsl.net/alaskaares>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC:

<http://ffdlm1mac.uafsof.alaska.edu/aarc/aarc.html>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

*please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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**ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM,  
Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.  
Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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**ALASKA HAM RADIO SUPPLY**

Ken Weldon, AL0R proprietor  
20950 Chickadee Lane in Chugiak, 688-4267

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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**Regular HAM Gatherings:**

\* **Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, "South, on Old Seward Highway.

**Saturdays, 7:30 AM:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

**THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**

**May 2nd: EARS general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1st Tuesday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB.. Talk in on 147.27 simplex.

**May 3rd: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**May 5th: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.300.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>: Walk for Hope \_ Harvey, NL7DK coordinator**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>: MARA Hamfest – Palmer National Guard Armory – Corner of Seward Meridian and Bogard Rds. 10:00 AM / 5:00 PM** VE Testing in the afternoon (time unknown)

**May 9th: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Boniface Bingo

**May 12th: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex. Open at 6:00 for those who want to eat before he meeting.

**May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>: Clean Air Bike Trek** contact John Lynn, KL0CY, to help.

**May 13th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International in the Board Room. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**May 20th: ARES Planning Committee 09:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** Normally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. ARES meeting rescheduled this moth due to activities.

**May 20th: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**May 21: Woman's Gold Nugget Triathlon.** Contact Susan Woods, NL7NN, to help.

**May 26th: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at the MTA office in Palmer.

**May 27th: QCWA Luncheon at 11:30 AM** Royal Fork (South) Old Seward Hwy south of Dimond Blvd. – All hams welcome.



## **20-meter intruder Worldradio**

An unidentified signals the low end of 20 Meters has the world's Amateur Radio intruder watch community on alert. The unidentified carrier has been heard on 14.001MHz and Ron Roden G4GKO, Co-ordinator IARU Region 1 monitoring service asked that the frequency of 14.001mhz be monitored for an unidentified carrier. If you can hear the signal, please take a note of the time heard, signal strength and if possible the bearing. Ron has received reports from national monitoring co-ordinators in several countries including Kenya, New Zealand and Canada according to the news service of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. Any reports should be communicated to the IRST monitoring service coordinator in your Country. The IARU now has a monitoring System website and it may be found at: <http://www.iarumsrl.cwc.net> If you get a bearing on this mystery intruder, please report all the data you collect to the Intruder Watch coordinator in your country. Here in the US please send that information to the American Radio Relay League.

### **Note from the Editor:**

The MOA Mass Casualty Drill will be held on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a special meeting of ARES on August 5<sup>th</sup> and the regular ARES meeting to be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Calling all hams the ARES people need to have HAMs to work the upcoming event on the week-end of May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating in this event please contact John Lynn, KL0CY for more information and to sign up.

Also note that any ham wishing to place an item for sale is free to submit the text to the editor of the address on the front page. It will be run one time only at no cost.

### **Alaska Section Manager Monthly Report**

Hello Alaska Section members. This is the first of what will become a regular monthly report I'll provide to all clubs for inclusion in their respective newsletters. I hope it keeps you informed about issues I've been working in the Section, and advise you of areas in which your help can achieve some important goals. Here goes:

### **Get to know your Field Organization:**

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Organization consists of dedicated volunteers willing to assist amateurs in specific ways at various levels of the organization. There are certain positions that must be appointed by the Section Manager, and others that anyone can apply for.

Detailed information about the Field Organization can be found at the League's web page at <http://www.arrl.org/field/org/> Contact me directly if interested in any positions. The following positions are considered "cabinet-level" and are Section Manager appointments:

Assistant Section Manager (ASM)  
Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)  
District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) - many needed  
Emergency Coordinator (EC) - many needed  
Section Traffic Manager (STM) - currently vacant  
Net Manger (NM) - many needed  
Official Observer Coordinator (OOC)  
Technical Coordinator (TC)  
Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC)  
Bulletin Manager (BM) - currently vacant  
Public Information Coordinator (PIC) - currently vacant  
State Government Liaison (SGL)

The following positions can be filled simply by volunteering:

Official Emergency Station (OES)  
Official Relay Station (ORS)  
Technical Specialist (TS)  
Public Information Officer (PIO)  
Local Government Liaison (LGL)  
Official Observer (OO)  
Official Bulletin Station (OBS)

Here are the latest section appointments as of April 21, 2000:

Borer, Michael R, WL7CKB (DEC/District 7, Anchorage)  
Bowns, Mel, KL7GG (NM/Sniper's Net)  
Capers, Billy B, AL7BB (LGL/District 7, Anchorage)  
Clare, Marium, WL7CFA (NM/Alaska Bush Net)  
Cole, Edward, AL7EB (ASM/AK) Nikiski, AK  
Comfort, Tim, NL7SK (NM/MARA Net)  
Dickinson, Douglas P, KL7IKX (OOC)  
Dolph, Michael F, KL7JBV (ASM/District 15, Kodiak)  
Dolph, Michael F, KL7JBV (DEC/District 15, Kodiak)  
Dolph, Michael F, KL7JBV (SEC)  
Duncan, Douglas W, KL0TS (DEC/District 5, Mat-Su)  
Kreiser, Robert E, WL7GK (DEC/ District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Ledlow, Larry L, N1TX (TS/District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Lewis, David A, KL7DL (DEC/District 12, Sitka)  
Lynn, John E, KL0CY (NM/Big City Simplex Net, Anchorage)  
Marsh, Pete, AL7FI (NM/Anchorage HF/VHF Pactor Traffic Gateway)  
Marsh, Pete, AL7PI (ORS/District 7, Anchorage)  
Meacock, George, NL7RD (ACC)  
Mullen, Linda G, AD4BL (OES/District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Mullen, Linda G, AD4BL (ORS/District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Nichols, Eric P, KL7AJ (ASM/District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Petty, Larry Kent, KL5T (SM)  
Preston, Terry A, WL7TY (EC/District 3, Fairbanks North Star Borough)  
Reynolds, Terry K, AL7CE (TC)  
Sheffield, T J, KL7TS (ASM/District 7, Anchorage)  
Simpson, Robert R, NL7XZ (DEC/District 10 Juneau, and all of Southeast)  
Sorum, Alan J, WL7CG (EC/Valdez, District 29, Prince William Sound)  
Stevens, David W, KL7EB (OO)  
Tvrdy, Jimmie J, KL7CDG (NM/Anchorage QCWA Net)  
Vansant, James, AL7G (EC/Cordova, District 29, Prince William Sound)  
Wiley, James B, KL7CC (TS/HF Operations)  
Wilson, Robert C, AL7KK (SGL)  
Woods, Susan J, NL7NN (EC/District 7, Anchorage)  
Woods, Susan J, NL7NN (NM/PARKA Net)



### New Amateurs:

Welcome to the following new amateur radio operators throughout the section:

KL0VG - Kathy C. Cullings, Fairbanks  
KL0VH - Janice R. Da Schiell, Kodiak  
KL0VI - Thomas S. Sparks, Nome  
KL0VJ - Nicholas G. Schmidt, Nome  
KL0VK - Bernadette M. Weldon, Chugiak  
KL0VL - Jack M. Hayden, Lake Minchumina  
KL0VM - Carlo F. Martinez, Fairbanks  
KL0VN - William E. Dewey, Fairbanks  
KL0VO, now KL7TB - Thomas F. Baird, Houston  
KL0VP - Richard L. Block, Anchorage  
KL0VQ - Michael J. Warren, Nome  
KL0VR - Karin M. Lacanne, Nome  
KL0VS - Marl H. Jenks, Anchorage  
KL0VT - Ronald K. Phillips, Wasilla  
KL0VU - Justin M. Yesis, Elmendorf AFB  
KL0VV - Constancio P. Bolima, Juneau  
KL0VW - Bonnie J. Roher, Wrangell Island  
KL0VX - Dinah M. Burk, Fairbanks  
KL0VY - Daniel L. Hickman  
KL0VZ - Steven C. Jensen, Anchorage  
KL0WA - Earl Merchant Jr., Nome  
KL0WB - Charles F. Lean, Nome  
KL0WC - Lynette C. Schmidt, Nome  
KL0WD - Nathaniel S. Abbott, Juneau  
KL0WE - Thomas A. Rozek, Juneau  
KL0WG - Michael B. Hyatt, Fairbanks  
KL0WH - David Light, Fairbanks  
KL0WI - Stephanie J. Wilcox, Delta Junction  
KL0WJ - Esther J. Holbrook, Delta Junction  
KL0WK - Thomas A. Benson, Fairbanks  
KL0WL - Bianca N. Benson, Fairbanks  
KL0WM - James A. Wilcox, Delta Junction  
KL0WO - Maureen E. Dey, Fairbanks  
KL0WP - Donald F. Logan, Fairbanks  
KL0WQ - Harlan N. Endreson, Wasilla  
KL0WR - Michael A. Dunham, Nome  
KL0WS - Paul D. Korchin, Nome  
KL0WT - Victoria I. Pasquantonio, Nome  
KL0WU - Mark J. Neidhold, Fairbanks  
KL0WV - Brian D. Metras, Anchorage  
KL0WW - Teresa M. Nunes, Wasilla  
KL0WX - Sylvan H. Morgan, Jr., Eagle River  
KL0WY - James V. Tatum, Anchorage  
KL0WZ - Tisa F. Hirschel, Delta Junction  
KL0XA - Peter J. Chapman, Fairbanks  
KL0XB - Chuck A. McDonald, Fairbanks  
KL0XC - Heather D. Hirschel, Delta Junction  
KL0XD - Brantly D. Bailey, Delta Junction  
KL0XE - Paul Hamby, Juneau  
KL0XF - Susan R. Pollard, Juneau  
KL0XG - Laura K. Furgione, Juneau

### Public Service Activity Reports (ARRL Form FSD-157)

Amateur Radio donates thousands of man-hours of supplementary public service communications in civil emergencies, official drills and events such as parades and marathons each year. These events can show Amateur Radio in its best light. It is critically important that ARRL bring documentation of this public service work to the attention of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other public officials. In addition, this information is used at the Section or local level to help represent amateur radio to the public. Basically, providing a public service without reporting the activity is akin to a DXer failing to follow through with a QSL exchange. Any activities of the nature described above should definitely be reported. This can be done by contacting anyone in the Emergency Coordinator chain of command, or by providing the information directly to me. I'll be happy to take your information and compile the report. All FSD-157s are posted on the Alaska ARES web page at <http://www.qsl.net/alaskaares> FSD-157s for the following events were recently submitted:

Juneau/Thane Avalanche, 27 Mar 00  
South Central Alaska Earthquake, 8 Mar 00  
Anchorage/Palmer Earthquake, 15 Mar 00  
Eagle River Classic Sled Dog Race  
Fur Rendezvous Grand Prix  
Fur Rendezvous Sled Dog Race  
Junior Iditarod  
Iditarod Race Start  
Iditarod Race Restart  
Yukon Quest Sled Dog Race

### PRB-1 Style Legislation:

Rob Wilson, AL7KK, was recently appointed State Government Liaison. He is diligently working with the League to draft and submit PRB-1 style legislation at the State level. You may be hearing from him for a call to arms to write your state representative urging support for passage of such legislation. If you have anything to offer in this regard, or would like to assist in any way, please contact Rob or myself.

### Youth Outreach:

What are you doing in your area to recruit our future into amateur radio -- kids? Is your club involved with the local Boy or Girl Scout group? How about radio clubs or amateur radio as part of the curriculum in your school? I'd challenge all groups within the Section to look at how we're doing here, and work to enhance this important task. Do we have scout masters and school teachers in our ranks? They're the "key" to get programs of this nature started. Let's see how we can do!



### League Membership:

While the ARRL is not universally popular with all HAMs, it is arguably the only organization that effectively represents our cause in Congress and to the FCC. The League maintains EXTENSIVE, well developed programs, some of which will appeal to every amateur. While an organization of this size could never make all its members happy on every issue placed before it, my experience as Section Manager indicates they are indeed a very professional group of dedicated and energetic individuals who strive to serve us in the best ways possible. Every request I've made to the League has met with a professional, timely, and courteous response. I am more impressed than ever with the League, and encourage each of you to consider becoming a member. Applications can be completed on-line at the League's web site. Hard copies can be requested from me or the League. We all enjoy getting on the air, so please, the next time you squeeze the key or PTT, think about who represents us and how much we enjoy the hobby. The League has certainly helped us maintain and gain privileges over the years. Your membership can only make it better.

### Contact:

Kent Petty, KL5T  
2229 Turnagain Parkway  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
Tele: (907) 243-5856  
e-mail: kl5t@arrl.org  
packet: KL5T @ KL7AA.#NAK.AK.USA.NOAM

### **ARRL Web Access Disrupted by Cyber-Vandal**

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 25, 2000--Access to the ARRL Web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>) was disrupted early Monday by an unknown individual when those attempting to connect to the site were shunted to another site, apparently in Canada. Some who attempted to access the site today were greeted by an obscene message and the statement "Pirate radio for life, baby."

ARRL Information Services Department Manager Don Durand said the League's "arrl.org" domain name was illegally modified at Network Solutions—which registers domain names—and redirected to the bogus site. "Network Solutions was promptly notified of the illegal change, and they, in turn, returned our record to the correct settings," Durand said. While Network Solutions was alerted to the problem yesterday morning, Durand said it takes up to 48 hours for the various name servers on the Internet to update their records. "At this time, we're simply waiting for that propagation to be completed," he said. The ARRL Web site itself was not "hacked," and no ARRL files were damaged as a result of the vandalism. "Our domain was hijacked at

Network Solutions," Durand emphasized. "At no time was our Web server compromised."

The vandalism did disrupt e-mail service to League staff and officials, however. Mail service was returning as servers were updated. The ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service was not affected. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said the League intends to investigate the disruption through all possible means. Haynie promised that the perpetrators, if caught, would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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### **MIR NEWS:**

Soyuz PM-30 was launched on 04-Apr-2000 with the Mir space station as its destination. The Soyuz craft carrying Cosmonauts Sergei Zaletin and Alexander Kaleri arrived on Mir on 06-Apr-2000. The Cosmonauts are expected to remain on-board Mir for 70 days, although the mission may be extended several more months beyond that.

By Saturday 08-Apr-2000, Shlomo Goldstein, 4X4LF, in Israel was copying Mir downlinks on 143.625 MHz. On 11-Apr-2000, Bob, EA1TH reported copying the Mir downlink from Northern Spain. It appears, however, that many of the previously active Mir VHF relay stations that utilized the 143.625 MHz downlink are no longer in operation. As a result, activity on 143.625 MHz at least at the present time is not as high as it has been during past missions. By 14-Apr-2000, the 2-meter Amateur Radio station on Mir had been activated, and several FM voice contacts between Mir and Amateur Radio operators living in Australia and New Zealand had taken place on 145.985 MHz. Mir was using a call sign of U8MIR. Miles Mann, WF1F, reported that the Mir crew normally sleeps between 19:00 UTC and 04:00 UTC, and their normal working day is between approximately 04:00 UTC and 18:00 UTC. Amateur Radio activity is most likely to occur during meal times and after their normal working hours. Meal time is as follows:

Wakeup 04:00 UTC    Breakfast 04:30 UTC  
Lunch 09:00 UTC    Dinner 15:00 UTC  
Bedtime 19:00 UTC

### **FM Satellite Status:**

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, has provided the following summary of currently active Amateur satellites carrying FM downlink transmitters. The following spacecraft can be heard fairly easily using an FM transceiver and a mobile vertical whip antenna:

UO14 435.070 145.975 5 FM Voice repeater  
AO27 436.795 145.850 3 FM Voice repeater  
SO35 145.825 436.290 8 FM Voice repeater  
UO22 435.120 145.900 3 9600 baud FSK  
KO23 435.170 145.900 4 9600 baud FSK packet  
KO25 436.500 145.980 3 9600 baud FSK packet  
TO31 436.925 145.925 5 9600 baud FSK packet



In addition, the UoSAT-OSCAR-11 satellite may be heard daily on 145.825 MHz transmitting telemetry and ASCII news bulletins at 1200 bps using an AFSK format. Between the hours of about 6 AM to noon and 6 PM to midnight local Sun time, there is usually one of these birds in view for a few minutes to keep you entertained while traveling. UHF requires +/- 5 or 10 KHz Doppler tuning. The "S" column is a subjective signal strength assessment. A 20" vertical whip in the center of your car roof will give you success as shown below. This acts as a 3/4 wave on UHF giving almost 8 dBi above 30 degrees over a good groundplane.

For more information on mobile satellite operations, see <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/astars.html>

#### Amsat Oscar 16:

On 11-Apr-2000 at 03:15 UTC, Russ Platt, WJ9F, turned on AMSAT-OSCAR-16's S-Band (2401.143 MHz) transmitter, and reduced the power of the UHF PSK downlink transmitter on 437.025 MHz down to 300 milliwatts. Russ operated the spacecraft in this configuration for 24 hours, and also ran a Whole Orbit Data (WOD) survey during this period to determine battery drawdown. These tests are in preparation for returning the satellite to normal operations.

#### ARIANE FLIGHT DELAY \*

On 11-Apr-2000, it was reported that the next Arianespace Ariane 506 launch scheduled for 26-May-2000 has been delayed until July since one of the two satellites scheduled for launch on this mission is not yet ready for flight. It is unknown at this time whether this will have any effect on the launch of the Phase 3D satellite currently scheduled for July.

#### ILLEGAL CALLSIGN ON UO-22 \*

Chris, GW6KZZ reports observing an illegal callsign on UoSAT-OSCAR-22 satellite that keeps appearing. The station is using TRINET as its callsign, and has appeared in the CL listing a number of times in late March and early April. Several attempts have been made to contact the station using the commercial TRINET callsign which is normally used on POSAT, but each attempt has failed. Chris reports that the station always seems to be active when UO-22 is to the west of the United Kingdom. Any information leading to the identity of this station would be appreciated.

Chris may be reached via UO-22, UO-25, or via e-mail at [gw6kzz@amsat.org](mailto:gw6kzz@amsat.org) or [Cdixon6901@aol.com](mailto:Cdixon6901@aol.com).

#### MIR News:

Slow-Scan television transmissions were observed originating from the Mir space station on Sunday 16-Apr-2000. An image showing the view outside of one of Mir's windows was transmitted by Mir on 145.985 MHz, although the orientation

of the spacecraft blocked much of the signal from reaching the earth, making reception more difficult than it has been in the past.

#### Oscar 10 News:

The AMSAT-OSCAR-10 satellite is currently in a "solar orbit", and will remain in constant sunlight until Wednesday 26-Apr-2000 when eclipses will begin once again. The sun angle appears to be favorable for the operation of the transponder at this time, with strong downlink signals being observed from the spacecraft in recent weeks. AO-10 is not expected to experience another eclipse-free period until around 20-Feb-2001, and that period of continuous sunlight is expected to last until early May 2001.

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Alaska Section Bulletin 009 AKSB009 - From KL5T

Frank W Henrikson, KL0SW, of Soldotna, Alaska has been appointed ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Local Emergency Planning District (LEPD) 8, effective April 24, 2000. Please help me welcome Frank to the ARRL Field Organization. His willingness to serve sets a fine example for others to follow. Many additional section field positions are available and need to be filled. For more information, please contact Kent Petty, KL5T.

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#### What does YOUR club do?

*Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR*

Amateur Radio Clubs have been around since the days of Marconi. There are many different types of clubs; general interests, DX, repeater groups, digital interests, satellites and so forth. So what has YOUR club done lately?

Many groups follow a format of gathering at a central location, hold a general business session, perhaps a report of member activities and finally, a speaker. This formula works well in areas where there are many interesting speakers, but what if good speakers aren't available? Worse, some clubs fall into the "same old thing" syndrome of basically repeating last month's meeting, where nothing really happened. The session turns out to be more a "night out with the boys" and little more. So here are some ideas on making club meetings more enjoyable!

#### Rule 1: DO SOMETHING!

Your club has a group of communication experts. Some are gifted technically, others are good speakers, still others are great with kids, etc. Outside of Ham radio, most folks have other interesting activities or hobbies. Break the ice by having each member introduce him/herself and take 30 seconds to speak on something they do outside of Ham Radio. The only unacceptable response is no response! Club leadership should keep a keen ear on the speeches for ways to connect those other interest to Ham Radio.



For example, a teacher may be able to arrange a Ham Radio demonstration, such as SAREX, at a local school. A medical practitioner may be able to tie your club in with shut-ins who might enjoy our hobby. An automotive technician may be able to bring in a manufacturer's rep that can speak on the "how-to" of mobile radio installation. A land developer or large landowner (such as a farmer) may have access to some nice repeater sites. An office worker may have the computer skills to generate a terrific club newsletter. An engineer could provide expert guidance on a club project.

## **Rule 2: BUILD SOMETHING!**

Your club should stand for something. We've already discovered that there's a gold mine of talent in your group. (If you haven't found it, you just haven't dug deeply enough.) So take this talent and put it to work. Build a repeater. If you already have one, build another or a cross-link to another band. Build an emergency operations center in conjunction with your local emergency responders. Or build a mobile emergency communications vehicle. Put an APRS digipeater on the air, as there are large portions of the country without coverage. It may spur APRS interest in your group. Even if it doesn't, you're providing a service to HAMS nationwide. Do a balloon release and tracking project. Better yet, do it in conjunction with a local school science class. Build a club station that is open a few times a month for members to use (what with antenna restrictions and the like, it may be a very welcome activity!) Build a crystal radio with the Cub Scouts Troop. Build an ATV repeater. Put ATV in a model railroad locomotive or in a model airplane. Put ATV in your next balloon release. Build a portable communications response kit that can be used on a minute's notice and at Field Day. Build roll-up J-pole antennas from twin lead at a club meeting and make *every-one* do it. Put the finished products on an SWR meter and watch the delight as Oms, Yls and kids see that their creation actually works! Take suggestions on what to build next.

## **Part 3: GREAT SPEAKERS**

Your club has access to great speakers. With a few phone calls and little planning you can get experts from many different aspects of Ham Radio, from astronauts and journalists to instructors and manufacturers' reps. There isn't a manufacturer or distributor around that doesn't like to show off its goods to a club. So maybe you don't live near one. Send an e-mail or call to see if they may have a rep passing through your region some time in the next few months. If there's a hamfest of any size in your region, that's often a good time to catch a rep, just before or just after a show. I've seen speakers from Alinco, Icom, Kantronics, Kenwood, Yaesu and more, and they all do a good job. Gordon West is a real showman and he travels the country. Your club might just lie between points "A" and "B" in his travels.

Invite speakers from your state's department of emergency services, along with country and local response

agencies. Do a panel discussion on emergency communications and the role your group might play. Invite one of the many ham-astronauts to your club meeting. Practically every state has a native astronaut. Invite your mayor to present a "Amateur Radio month" proclamation.

Who said your meetings have to be at the same place all the time? Arrange to visit a local broadcast outlet (they have some serious transmitters!) or a manufacturing facility where communications technologies are being developed. Go to a children's hospital during the holidays and have children talk to Santa via radio. Maybe your local police department will show your members how the "pros" do mobile radio installations!

I once got inspiration for a meeting on tub-powered equipment by a comment a young person made. She looked into an old radio and said, "What are those orange things? Do you realize how many of today's kids have never seen "glow in the dark" gear? Here's your club's chance to pass on a bit of history. What are those tubes? What do they do?

Get your club's board together and brainstorm some interesting speakers and subjects. You should end up with some enjoyable programs and building bridges in the community!

## **Rule 4: TURN THE TABLES**

Members of your group should be prepared to go out and speak on behalf of Ham Radio to other groups. Local organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer fire department and the like are **ALWAYS** looking for good speakers. Your demonstration of communications skills and projects could lead to a great relationship.

Be sure to recognize your members who may be a school with certificates and awards to be presented at their assemblies or graduations exercises.

## **Rule 5: SPEND SOME MONEY**

Doing all these projects might require some money. So what? Raise it! Some clubs are well funded, some not. There are many ways to raise the cash needed for a big project. Sell advertising in the club newsletter. Take donations of used Ham and computer gear and sell it at the local flea market or swap meet. If there is no swap meets put one on and sell booth spaces to other sellers. Remember that service club you spoke to? Many of them are experts at raising funds and supporting community projects (like a local repeater or emergency communications van). Many corporations provide matching gifts for employees who make donations to various causes. Perhaps some of those employees are members of your club!

Raise money for a scholarship to award to young HAMS. You don't have to administrate the whole program. ARRL Foundation and FAR are two organizations that award scholarships. There are also community foundations.



If your club has a big treasury, don't just let it sit there, put those dollars to work toward making Ham radio more enjoyable in your community.

#### **Rule 6: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Balance our club's activities. Ham radio has so many different facets; it's almost impossible to do them all well. Your club's activities and speakers may just be the spark that ignites interest in one of your members taking on a new pursuit in this great hobby.

Don't forget social activities! Group camp-outs are fun and can be another way to enjoy radio at a remote location. A "couples" dinner every other month is a nice change of pace and provides a great way to socialize. It can expand your circle of friends and interests.

#### **Rule 7: DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET**

Publicize your activities. News releases aren't just for Field Day! If you have an astronaut coming to town, that's news. If you are holding Ham radio licensing classes, that's news. If you're awarding a scholarship, that's news. If you're launching a balloon, that's news. Building a community communications project? Let the press know. If you're...you get the idea. It's nice to see your club's efforts recognized. And good publicity shows your club to be dynamic organization others want to join.

#### **Rule 8: BE A LEADER**

Support your club's leadership. Give new ideas a chance. Rotate your group's leadership. If the same officers have been in place for years, it may be time for new ideas. Not that the old leaders are bad, in most instances they're great. But very few can be great leaders all the time over a period of years. Take turns sharing the leadership!

As a leader, lead!!! Don't get bogged down by the naysayers (it seems every club has at least one). If you hear, "we tried that, it didn't work" turns it around and ask what can be done to **MAKE** it work this time! Maybe some of your members have "been there, done that" but asking them to share those skills with others who haven't can pump new life into your group.

#### **THE FINAL SECRET**

What makes a good radio club? It's people! Change course and get the best out of the many talents you have at your disposal. Let's open the doors to new people and new ideas by making both welcomes. Make a big deal over a new member.

Get things done by reaching beyond what is apparent. All it takes is the determination, some goal setting and a little follow-through to make a difference

#### **FCC dismisses five more petitions**

##### ***ARRL Letter***

The FCC has turned down five more Amateur Radio-related petitions, including three filed by the ARRL. The FCC consolidated the dismissals into a single Order, released November 29th. Among the five was a petition filed last spring by the Central States VHF Society. That petition, designated RM-9673, generally sought more restrictive regulation of the modes used by amateurs in the 6-meter, 2-meter, and 70 cm bands.

The three ARRL petitions dismissed were RM-9259, filed April 3, 1998, asking for an FCC declaratory ruling to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice"; RM-9115, filed March 12, 1997, seeking to permit RACES participants and others to intercommunicate during emergencies, drills and tests and to expand the time allowed for RACES drills; and RM-9106 filed March 12, 1997, asking the FCC to permit stations in the Territory of American Samoa to transmit on 7.1 to 7.3 MHz as a domestic exception to the International Table of Frequency Allocations.

The FCC also dismissed a petition filed March 19, 1997, by James Cardillo-Lee, KE6VGV, asking for a rule change to permit Hams who also are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief to use the Amateur Service bands while on paid-duty status.

The Central States VHF Society petition, filed May 3rd, had expressed concern about increasing encroachment into the so-called weak-signal portions of the bands above 50 MHz by wider-bandwidth modes, such as voice FM and packet. CSVHFS said voluntary band plans had not been successful in limiting the activity.

In turning down the petition, the FCC said that amateurs, including weak-signal adherents, already have been provided segments in the bands at issue that are off-limits to certain types of stations. The FCC reiterated language from another Report and Order that declared it was "unreasonable" to expect to operate in a totally interference-free environment. The Commission also expressed concern that "subdividing amateur service bands on the basis of operating interests would result in a loss of flexibility to accommodate changes in operating trends and emergence of new technologies." The FCC said it agreed with the ARRL's position on the CSVHFS petition that education and the application of existing rules should suffice to minimize interference among various modes.

In dismissing as "unnecessary" the League's request for a declaratory ruling to educate band plan adherence with "good amateur practice," the FCC noted that a basic amateur principal is that "all frequencies are shared, and no frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." The Commission suggested it was reluctant to expand its regulatory rule beyond the existing limits on the emission types that may be transmitted in different subbands. The Commission, however, did reiterate existing prohibitions against willful and malicious interference.

The FCC said the requested changes "would have the effect of transforming voluntary band plans into de facto



required mandates," something inconsistent with current FCC policy.

In denying the ARRL's petition for changes in the RACES rules, the FCC said the League failed to demonstrate a separate rulemaking was warranted. The FCC noted that it's currently considering "the necessity of separate licenses for RACES stations" in another proceeding.

### **Your Club Could be Awarded \$1000**

Read below to find out how your club can achieve a \$1000 award just for being the hardworking, stand-out club you are!

#### **Club 2000 Achievement Awards**

**Purpose:** To reward the achievement of ARRL-affiliated clubs who are growing, thriving, and developing good community relations through:

- Emergency/public service participation
- Public relations/recruitment efforts
- Increasing ARRL membership
- Volunteer Examination participation
- Educational or instructional innovations
- Field Organization volunteerism

The ARRL Volunteer Resources Committee has suggested new club incentive awards called the Club 2000 Achievement Awards. Throughout 2000, the activities of clubs will be reviewed by ARRL Field & Educational Services staff. Four exemplary clubs, one in each eligible category, will be selected by the Volunteer Resources Committee and would be announced at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in January 2001.

Eligible Club Categories include club membership totals by 9/30/2000 of:

- Clubs with over 100 members
- Clubs with less than 100 members, but more than 25
- Clubs with 25 or less members
- School clubs

#### **Submissions:**

All ARRL-affiliated clubs are welcome to submit newsletters, press clippings, photos, and concise write-ups telling us about their club and its special current activities and efforts. Submissions will be addressed to: Club 2000 Awards, ARRL HQ, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2000.

#### **Awards:**

\$1000 dollar check from The ARRL Foundation, Inc. will be awarded to the club in each category with the highest number of achievement points. The award may be used for equipment purchase or improvements to a club's station or the

purchase of ARRL publications or supplies. The award will be made in the name of the club, and not an individual. An article publicizing the achievements of the selected clubs will be featured in QST and/or the ARRL Web.

#### **Field & Educational Services--Selection Panel and Scoring**

The Selection Panel will consist of 5 members of ARRL Field & Educational Services. Submissions will be collected, divided, and acknowledged. Work parties will occur to score submissions at intervals noted on the timeline (see below).

#### **Scoring:**

Each club will be rated using a specified number of points for each bonafide activity they perform.

**ARRL Membership Formula:** To provide fair and equal achievement status for all clubs, regardless of size, membership points will be determined according to this formula: 100 divided by Total Club Membership = 3D Number of Points for each ARRL Member as of March 15, 2000. Each club member who joins ARRL after this date will bring 1 additional point for the club total.

**ACTIVITIES:** 5 points will be gained for the following specific activities: ARRL recruitment night Regular monthly meetings which are open to the public Instructional workshop (kit building, operating demonstrations, etc.) ARES/SKYWARN Group activity NTS Group activity/net Special Event Station Local school club support NWS SKYWARN Training Classes Maintain a club-sponsored repeater Community service activities Press release Newsletter ARRL VE Test session (at least twice yearly) Tutoring the disabled or providing accommodation Field Day Station (summary sheet required) ARRL Contest such as ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, ARRL 10-Meter Contest, ARRL 160-Meter Contest, ARRL DX Contest, etc. Operating Events such as Kid's Day, JOTA, School Club Round-up. Monitoring state legislation that affects Amateur Radio

**AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES:** 10 points for each class which results in at least 50% getting licensed. 1 point for each club member that upgrades beyond entry-level license at a club-sponsored class. 10 points for each new club member from a club-sponsored class.

Clubs with highest point values at midnight December 31, 2000 will be considered finalists. Postmarked submissions after December 31 will not be considered.

Any questions? Write [dmiller@arrl.org](mailto:dmiller@arrl.org) then...get going!

Margie Bourgoin, KB1DCO  
Field and Educational Services  
860-594-0267  
[mbourgoin@arrl.org](mailto:mbourgoin@arrl.org)  
fax: 860-594-0259



#### **ARRL Bulletin 19 - From ARRL Headquarters**

The ARRL Executive Committee heard reports on several regulatory matters confronting or affecting Amateur Radio. The Committee met April 1 in Irving, Texas. Meeting minutes were released this week.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told the Committee that two petitions for partial reconsideration--one of them from the ARRL--have been filed in the wake of the FCC's "restructuring" report and order, WT Docket 98-143. Neither petition has been placed on public notice. Imlay noted that once public notice has been given, interested parties may file opposition comments. The FCC does not solicit supporting comments for such petitions, and it's under no obligation to consider them.

A Petition for Rule Making that seeks to eliminate the Citizens Band rule prohibiting communication over distances greater than 250 km was among other items the committee discussed. The ARRL has commented in opposition to the petition, RM-9807, filed by Popular Communications Contributing Editor Alan Dixon, N3HOE.

The League's comments noted that long-distance communication is contrary to the fundamental purpose of the CB Radio Service, and that legalizing it would encourage the use of illegal power amplifiers. The FCC is expected to dismiss the petition.

The Committee discussed encouraging additional PRB-1 legislation at the state level on the assumption that local land-use authorities would more likely be aware of state statutes than of federal regulations. Ten states now have PRB-1 legislation in place. Legislatures in several other states, including New York and California, are considering PRB-1 bills.

Imlay also updated the Committee on the status of experimental license applications in the Los Angeles area for airborne microwave downlink video in the band 2402-2448 MHz. Separate petitions were filed on behalf of the County and the City of Los Angeles. Imlay said the City's application was granted, and the license WB2XEN issued. The ARRL has filed a Petition for Reconsideration and continues to object to the County's application.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported that there are now 143 co-sponsors of HR 783, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. A companion bill, S 2183, has been introduced in the Senate with five initial co-sponsors. Additional co-sponsors are being sought.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be July 20 in Hartford, Connecticut. The complete minutes of the April Executive Committee meeting are available at [http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec\\_minutes\\_463.html](http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec_minutes_463.html).

#### **ARRL Bulletin 21 - From ARRL Headquarters**

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, has announced that noted DXer Wayne Mills, N7NG, will join the Headquarters staff as Membership Services Manager, effective May 2. He succeeds Bill Kennamer, K5NX, who retired in March.

First licensed in 1953 at age 10, Mills has served as the Rocky Mountain Division DXAC Representative since 1996 and as chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee since March 1997. He also served on the DXCC 2000 Committee. He is best known for his operating on DXpeditions over the past 15 years, most recently from TX0DX.

Mills holds BSEE and MSEE degrees from the University of California-Davis and just sold his two-way radio communication sales and service business in Jackson, Wyoming.

#### **WILLEM'S STORY PUTS FAMILY IN MEDIA HEADLIGHTS (from ARRL HQ)**

The van Tuijl family--Jacco, KH2TD, Jannie, KH2TE, and 13-year-old Willem--is getting its "15 minutes of fame." Their story has been featured in major newspapers and on national television. It's set to be highlighted again in an upcoming edition of People magazine (April 24 edition). While the story has been a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio, the close and rather private van Tuijl family is not especially comfortable being in the spotlight. Media attention built this week with a segment on ABC's 20/20 news magazine. The Wednesday night program recounted--in TV's typically compressed fashion--the events that led to the pirate attack on the family's sailboat off Honduras and Willem's dire injuries when he was shot by the intruders.

In addition to interviews with the parents, the ABC report included interviews with Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, and Dr Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, who assisted the van Tuijls via ham radio the night of March 28, and with ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who arranged for Willem to come to the US for medical treatment. It also included audio segments provided by Frank Moorhus, AA2DR.

"We didn't want to do this at all," Jacco van Tuijl said of the ABC piece. But van Tuijl said the family was led to believe that ABC would mention the Willem Fund, and that softened their reluctance. The fund was established through Haynie's business office to assist the family in dealing with Willem's current and future expenses. "So we had the idea we were doing this for Willem, and they didn't do that, which disappointed me really."

For his part, Willem wasn't too excited about being on national TV or about the magazine segment itself, his father said. Willem, he reported, considered the report a bit too melodramatic for his tastes. van Tuijl said he and his wife



missed the broadcast because they got lost in Dallas. They saw it on tape later, and they agreed with their son's assessment.

van Tuijl returned to his sailboat in Honduras with the ABC crew to tape part of the segment. He says he stayed aboard the boat rather than in the hotel room ABC had reserved. "I was not ready to give a whole lot to this," he said. "They wanted to take the boat out sailing, and I just said, 'No, I'm just not going to do that.'" The story also appears on the 20/20 Web site at [http://www.abcnews.go.com/onair/2020/2020\\_000412\\_pirates\\_feature.html](http://www.abcnews.go.com/onair/2020/2020_000412_pirates_feature.html). The family's calamity also will be detailed in *Cruising World* magazine.

On Thursday, Willem--who suffered kidney and spinal cord damage in the shooting and likely will never be able to walk--was transferred from Children's Medical Center to a rehabilitation facility--Our Children's House--at Baylor University. He could be there for two months. "He's doing fine. He's recovering really quick," van Tuijl said. But he said Willem has not really come to grips with the long-term implications of his injuries. van Tuijl said the family's insurance covers Willem's medical expenses as long as he's still in the US. Those benefits will end if and when the family returns to The Netherlands, however.

In the meantime, van Tuijl said he expects to retrieve his sailboat--Hayat--from Honduras and sail it--with the help of a friend or two--to the US, probably Florida. "Eventually, I think we have to go back to the Netherlands, but we also maybe would like to stay in the States," he said, framing the family's dilemma. He acknowledged the huge obstacles to remaining in the US, but he said the best rehab facilities and opportunities for his son are here. "We just want the best for Willem," he said.

Donations are invited to the Willem Fund, c/o Southwest Bank, 1603 LBJ Freeway, Suite 100, Dallas, Texas 75234; 214-243-7900. (The Willem Fund is not an ARRL activity.)

#### **MANUFACTURERS GATHER TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES - From ARRL Headquarters**

Representatives of the ARRL recently joined Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers and publishers for the second year in a row to share ideas and discuss issues facing the ham radio industry. The session last weekend, was organized by Amateur Electronic Supply Manager Ray Grenier, K9KHW, and held at the Wisconsin hunting lodge of AES owner Phil Majerus.

Leading the discussions were Gordon West, WB6NOA, of the Gordon West Radio School, and Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Limited. Sumner said much of the talk centered on ways to better support local efforts to attract new amateurs. "As all politics is local, so is the case here," Sumner said. During the session, ICOM and other manufacturers proposed offering prizes of equipment to clubs that do the best job of

promoting Amateur Radio at local theaters screening the upcoming movie *Frequency* (see related story, "Prizes Pledged in Frequency Promotion Competition").

Antenna restrictions also were a hot topic at the manufacturers' meeting. "The group identified antenna restrictions and especially restrictive covenants, as the greatest challenge facing ham radio at this point," Sumner said. He emphasized in his remarks to the group that antenna restrictions remain a priority issue for the League. Sumner also acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of amateurs in recent emergencies, including the situation off Honduras where 13-year-old Willem van Tuijl was shot and seriously wounded when the family's sailboat was attacked by marauders.

Bee said the gathering was upbeat. "I thought there were a lot of positive thoughts expressed at the meeting," he said. He said manufacturers were more optimistic about the business outlook than in the past, in part because of FCC license restructuring. The group also recognized the importance of expanding support to the many hams soon getting licensed or upgrading as a result of restructuring. The manufacturers meeting was held in conjunction with the annual AES Superfest, April 7 and 8. Amateurs attending Superfest had a chance to meet with more than 36 manufacturers exhibiting at the AES store in Milwaukee. The event also included informational forums, license exams, and volunteers representing area radio clubs. AES Superfest 2000 was an ARRL-sanctioned event.

#### **W5YI-VEC REBUILDING PUERTO RICO VE PROGRAM - From ARRL Headquarters**

Fred Maia, W5YI, said this week that the W5YI-VEC is starting afresh in Puerto Rico with its Amateur Radio examination program. Maia says he decertified all but one of his program's seven Volunteer Examiner teams there after meeting with some of his VEs last weekend.

"I made a trip to Puerto Rico for a team leader meeting," Maia said Tuesday, adding that he met with about 30 of the more than 100 W5YI-VEC VEs on the Island. "What we ended up doing was telling all seven teams that we were going to start over fresh." Maia cited a lack of confidence in the integrity of his Amateur Radio testing program in Puerto Rico for his decision to decertify the majority of the W5YI-VEC volunteers there. For now, the Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club--KP4AO, under the leadership of Bill Genter, KP3O, will be the only W5YI-VEC accredited VE team in Puerto Rico. Maia said the approximately half-dozen accredited VEs associated with the Arecibo club will represent the W5YI-VEC in Puerto Rico. All other VE teams are "null and void," he said. Maia said his plan calls for the Arecibo club to approve any VEs in Puerto Rico, announce and coordinate all testing sessions, and receive the paperwork for all testing sessions. In addition, he said, Arecibo VEs will



audit test sessions. "I have the utmost confidence in" the Arecibo Observatory team, he said. He estimated that the W5YI-VEC serves upwards of 100 amateur applicants a year in Puerto Rico. Genter has invited all ARRL members in Puerto Rico to cooperate in helping the W5YI-VEC to re-establish its Amateur Radio testing program in Puerto Rico.

Maia said he has responded to all FCC inquiries into alleged W5YI-VEC examination irregularities in South Carolina as well in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. While in Puerto Rico, Maia said he also met with ARRL Section Manager Victor Madera, KP4PQ, to brief him on the situation.

For more information, contact Fred Maia, W5YI, at [fmaia@texas.net](mailto:fmaia@texas.net), or Bill Genter, KP3O, at [wgenter@asem.net](mailto:wgenter@asem.net).

#### **Alaska Section Bulletin 005 From KL5T**

Douglas W. (Woody) Duncan, KL0TS, of Wasilla, Alaska has been appointed ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Local Area Planning District (LEPD) 5, effective April 11, 2000. Please help me welcome Woody to the ARRL Field Organization. His willingness to serve sets a fine example for others to follow.

#### **Alaska Section Bulletin 008 from KL5T**

##### **Spectrum Protection Act**

Club presidents and field organization members. Please give this message widest dissemination amongst our ranks. The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1999 has now been introduced into the U.S. Senate. As it stands right now, neither the House version (HR 783) nor the Senate version are supported through cosponsorship by our Alaskan congressional delegation. I urge you to write or e-mail each member of our delegation to solicit such support. Following is a sample letter. Feel free to edit it as you please:

RE: H.R. 783/ S. 2183

Dear Senator/ Representative (name):

Writing as one of the nation's more than 650,000, licensed radio amateurs, and 1 of 3,500 Alaskan radio amateurs, I urge you to co-sponsor HR 783/S. 2183, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1999. This bill is a nonpartisan, non-controversial measure designed to help protect the radio frequencies used by Amateur Radio volunteers in our state and elsewhere to provide emergency communication, technical experimentation and recreation.

Your co-sponsorship of HR 783/S. 2183 will help ensure Amateur Radio's public service role for the people of our state.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Here are the individual addresses of our representatives:

Senator Ted Stevens  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Senator Frank Murkowski  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Representative Don Young  
2111 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Detailed information concerning the act can be found on the ARRL Web at: <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr783.html>

#### **News from the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska**

##### **Simulator Arrives:**

The simulator for the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska has arrived in Kenai. Currently the installation is scheduled to be complete by March 24, 2000. This is a major milestone for the completion of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska!

##### **Simulator Training and Inaugural Mission**

On March 27, 2000 the training of the CLCA flight directors will begin. They will be working with headquarters trainers and installers to learn about the system and fly missions. If you are interested in being one on the inaugural mission actually "flying" the first mission at the CLCA, please call Jane Cheatham at (907) 258-9666 a limited number of places are available. The inaugural mission will include airfare from Anchorage to Kenai, the mission, and dinner. Prices are available without airfare for Kenai/Soldotna participants. Join us for a fantastic evening of learning, entertainment and fun!

##### **Distance Learning Program:**

Challenger Flight Director, Daniela Martian, Pat Dye (Board Member) and Jane Cheatham (Principles, Inc.) visited the Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia. The purpose of the visit was to determine if the distance-learning module based on an Earth System Science Curriculum, developed by CLC at WJU, was applicable to implement in the CLCA programs. Nancy Strum, Education Director and her team demonstrated the system for the possible inclusion in the fall programming of the CLCA. Negotiations are in process to bring this exciting Internet delivery space simulation module to classrooms throughout Alaska during the next school year.

##### **Alaskan of the Century Award Winner:**

The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska will be honored at the Alaskan of the Century Award Banquet scheduled for March 25, 2000. The CLCA will receive the Governors Award for its achievements over the past year. Michael Tarr, President of the Board of Directors and Dr. Eva Carey, Co-



Chair of the Board of Governors will accept the award for the CLCA. We are Booked--84 Missions!

Starting April 10, over 84 school groups will be flying missions at the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska in Kenai. Classes are participating from around the state in the Center=92s first missions. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has booked 46 missions, Anchorage School District 20 missions, Mat-Su 10 missions, Dillingham 3 missions, Minto 2 missions, Fairbanks, Cordova and Barrow each have booked 1 mission.

#### **Summer Camps Are Available, Book Early!**

The CLCA is offering summer camps and programs during the summer. Call Assistant Flight Director Rob Carrillo at (907) 283-2069 for detailed information.

#### **Grand Opening**

Grand Opening Ceremonies are currently planned for the week of July 1, 2000. Watch the Mission Link for further details!

#### **Fundraising**

As the opening of the CLCA draws closer, fundraising activities are expected to increase. The CLCA still needs to raise \$330,000 to meet the first year program and construction goals. Please call Jane Cheatham (907) 258-9666 if you have any suggestions or are willing to help with fundraising activities.

**Special Bulletin ARLB022 - From ARRL**

**FCC says Generals not allowed in Advanced subbands**

The FCC says newly upgraded General class licensees may not operate in the current Advanced class subbands under the new amateur rules. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division notes that no privileges changed for any license class.

The Advanced class license continues to exist under restructuring, which became effective April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. Current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, when they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals remain ineligible to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs.

Newly upgraded licensees were cautioned to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site at

<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>.

The FCC today released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year.

## **MARA HAMFEST**

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM / 5:00 PM**

**Corner of Seward Meridian and Bogard Rds, in the  
National Guard Armory building**

**VE Testing - Door Prizes - Snacks - Video Show -  
Technical Demonstrations**

**Donation \$3.00  
(under 16 free w/adult)**



